

Septuagint

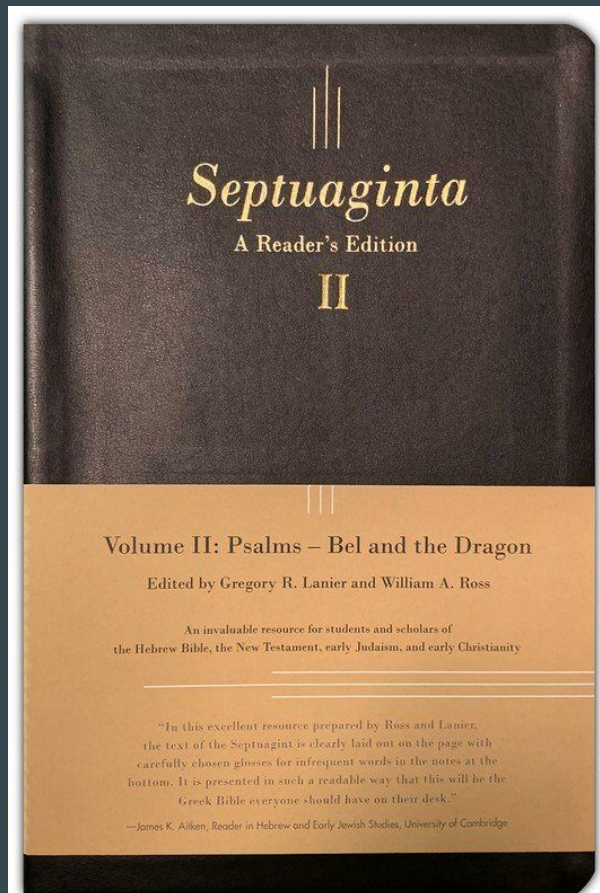
Bryan Lawrence

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ΚΑΙΛΟΝΚ

The Septuagint
is the one of the
most important
Bible translations
you might never have heard of

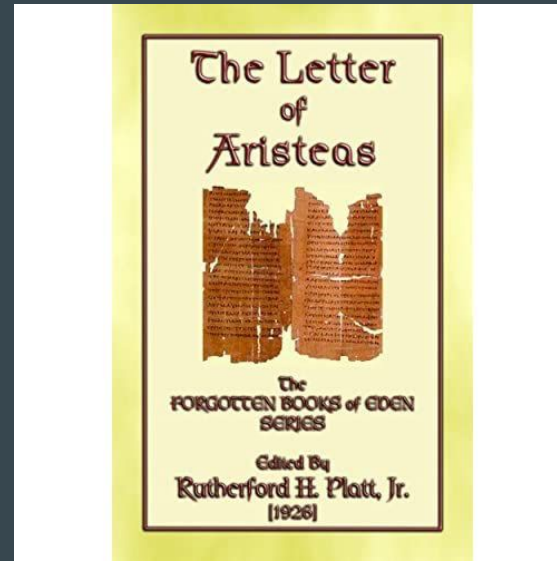
Septuagint

- The Septuagint is everything that is in the one-volume edition by Rahlfs Hanhart, the *Septuaginta*.
- The Septuagint is the Old Greek version of the Bible.
- Leonard Greenspoon writes, “that anyone who seeks to understand the New Testament must take into account its considerable debt to the Septuagint.”



History

- The letter of Aristeas → traces LXX origins back to Alexandria, Egypt.
- This letter also documents Ptolemy sending seventy-two Jewish elders that were skilled in languages to the royal court at Alexandria to provide a Greek translation of the Torah.



Why is it called the Septuagint (LXX)?

‘The number of translators, conventionally tallied as “seventy” (Lat septuaginta), gave the translation its name and its standard abbreviation (LXX, the Roman numeral for 70). The Latin name “Septuagint,” abbreviated “LXX,” replaced the usual Greek name for the translation, kata tous ebdomekonta, “according to the seventy.”’ (Greenspoon)

A large, stylized yellow Roman numeral 'LXX' is centered on a black rectangular background. The numeral is composed of thick, straight lines, with the 'L' being a simple vertical and horizontal stroke, and the two 'X's formed by two intersecting diagonal lines each.

Why is this important?

- The Jewish community fell in love with this text and refused to make any changes.
- The Septuagint allows others to study the teachings of the Old Testament.
- This allowed the teachings to spread outside of Greece.
- Translators specified differences between Masoretic Text and Septuagint.
- The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Leonard Greenspoon writes that “the composers (of the Septuagint) were, as Philo maintained, authentic prophets rather than mere translators.”

Works Cited

- *The New Interpreter's dictionary of the Bible*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.
- Greenspoon, L. *The Septuagint*. Oxford University Press, 2017.
- What Is the Septuagint (and Why Does It Matter)? by Jannes Smith. (n.d.). Retrieved September 06, 2020, from <http://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/what-is-the-septuagint>
- Aitken, James. *What is the Septuagint?* Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2015.